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# WOMEN IN THE ALBERTA LABOUR FORCE

## A Statistical Overview

## 1976 - 1986

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# WOMEN IN THE ALBERTA LABOUR FORCE

The following, is a brief statistical overview of the participation of women in the Alberta labour force between 1976 and 1986. It is in no way intended to be a comprehensive analysis. Data for many of the relevant variables is only available for women on a national basis or for men and women combined on a provincial basis. Because the experience of Alberta women has indeed been different than the experience of Canadian women as a whole as well as Alberta men, this available data has not been utilized.

## Labour Force Participation

The most dramatic development in the situation of Alberta women since 1976 has been their influx into the labour force. Between 1976 and 1986 the number of individuals in the Alberta labour force rose by 398,000, with females accounting for 218,000 or 54.77% of the increase. As a result, in 1986 women constituted 42.96% of the total labour force in Alberta, up from 37.57% in 1976. (Table 1) During this same period, women's labour force participation experienced continuous growth, with the only exception being between 1981 and 1982, years of economic slowdown. The female participation rate rose 11.4 percentage points, from 50.7% to 62.1%, while the participation rate for males actually declined slightly. Thus the gap between women and men's participation rates has been narrowing. (Table 2)

The growth in female labour force participation during these years was only surpassed by the province of Saskachewan, where the female participation rate rose from 43.0% to 56.3% for an increase

of 13.3 perentage points. But, in every year from 1976 to 1986, Alberta women continued to enjoy the highest participation rates of all women in Canada. (Table 3)

While labour force participation was rising for women as a whole in Alberta, the participation rates also increased for women of all ages, except those aged 65 years and over. (Table 5) The largest increases experienced were for those women between the ages of 25 and 44; participation was up 19.7 percentage points for women aged 25 to 34, and 20.9 percentage points for those ages 35 to 44. In fact, women between the ages of 25 and 44 made up 166,000 of the increase of 218,000 in the female labour force or 76.15%. (Table 4) Labour force participation also increased substantially for women aged 45 to 54, with the participation rate rising by 13.7 percentage points between 1976 and 1986.

The influx of women between the ages of 25 and 44 demonstrates a change in the working life patterns of women in Alberta. In 1976 labour force participation among women was highest for those aged 15-to 24. While in 1986, labour force participation was highest for women aged 35 to 44, followed by those aged 25 to 34. The large increase in labour force participation of married women also indicates a change in female working life patterns. The participation rate for married women rose 14.9 percentage points from 47.5% to 62.4% from 1976 to 1986, while the participation rate of single/other women rose only 4.9 percentage points, thus narrowing the gap between married and single/other women. (Table 6)

## Employment

While Alberta women were increasing their share in the total labour force, they were also increasing their share of employment. The number of employed women rose by 184,000 between 1976 and 1986, compared to 124,000 increase for men. Thus by 1986, females accounted for 43.28% of the employed labour force in Alberta, up from 37.23% in 1976. (Table 7) The female employment/population ratio was also on the rise during this period, increasing from 48.2% to 56.4%, while the same for males fell 6.5 percentage point to 73.6%. Therefore, while the overall employment/population ratio experienced relatively little change between 1976 and 1986, the gap between males and females was narrowing. (Table 8) But, while Alberta women still had higher employment/population ratios than women in all other provinces in 1986, they only ranked 5th out of the ten provinces in terms of female employment/population growth during the period 1976 to 1986. (Table 9)

Part of the increase in the employment/population ratio for Alberta women reflects the changing nature of Alberta's economy. Growth in employment in the goods producing industries has been much slower than in the service sector where most females are still employed. Between 1976 and 1986 employment in the service sector in Alberta grew by 296,000, while employment in the goods producing sector rose by only 12,000. Thus by 1976, employment in the goods producing industries accounted for 35.92% of total employment, while in 1986 it accounted for only 27.31%. On the other hand,

employment in the service sector, as a percentage of total employment rose from 64.08% to 72.69%. (Table 10) Women claimed 172,000 out of 296,000 jobs created in the service sector between 1976 and 1986. (Tables 10 and 11) As a result, by 1986, 51.14% of all service sector workers were women, up from 47 30% in 1976, (Table 12) and 85.89% of all employed women work in this sector. (Table 13) Within the service sector, most women are employed in the Community, Business and Personal Service industries, which accounted for 47.78% of all employed women in 1986. In addition women make up 61.88% of all individuals employed in the Service industries. Women also make up over 60% of all individuals employed in the Finance, Insurance and Real-estate industry. However, females are somewhat underrepresented in all other service sector industries; accounting for 43.46% of those employed in Trade, 42,35% of Public Administration and just 25.81% in Transportation, Communication and other Utilities. (Table 12)

Women have also increased their share of jobs in the goods producing industries. The total number of Alberta women working in the sector rose by 12,000 - the total increase for all workers as a whole. Thus, by 1986 women made up 22.36% of all employed persons in the goods producing industries up from 19.27% in 1976. But the percentage of women employed in this sector fell from 18.59% to just over 14%.

Although females have increased their share of total employment most women are still primarily employed in 'female' occupations. In 1986, 80.44% of all employed women were working in

Managerial, Clerical and Service occupations, up from 75.01% in 1976. (Table 17) It is however interesting to note the increase in the number of women working in the managerial field. By 1986, 31.45% of women were in this field, compared to 23.08% in 1976. Between 1976 and 1986 Alberta women managed to increase their share of employment out of total employment in virtually all occupations, (that statistics are available for) with the exception of primary occupations. (Table 16) The most impressive gains in terms of employment shares have been in Sales and Materials Handling. In 1986, females made up 45.45% of total employment in Sales, a 7.67 percentage point increase over 1976. They also experienced a 7.59 percentage point gain in Materials Handling, rising from 14.29% to 21.88% of total employment. Yet, in spite of these substantial gains the fact remains, women are concentrated in Clerical and Service occupations, comprising 84.70% of the clerical work force and 57.14% of employment in service occupations.

Much of women's employment also remains part-time. In 1976 79,000, or approximately 25% of the female labour force worked part-time. This compares with 5.89% for males. By 1986 female part-time employment out of total female employment remained basically unchanged at 25.66%, while male part-time employment had risen to 7.38% of employed males. (Table 18)

**Unemployment**

From 1976 through 1982, the Alberta female unemployment rate remained consistently above that for Alberta males. In

1982 the female unemployment rate rose 3 percentage points from the previous year, to 7.3%, while the male unemployment rate rose from 3.5% to 8.0% for an increase of 4.5 percentage points, bringing it above that of males for the first time in the period of study. (Table 19) The explanation for this again lies in the heavy concentration of women's employment in the service industries. While the recession hit hardest the traditionally male dominated goods producing sectors, resulting in a dramatic increase in unemployment for males, the service sector were not as badly affected. By 1986, 50,000 or 9.2% of the female labour force was unumployed. This compared with an unemployment rate of 10.3% for males.

Between 1976 and 1986, Alberta women experienced the second largest increase in the unemployment rate in comparison with their female counterparts in other provinces. (Table 20) Newfoundland females saw their unemployment rate rise 7.2 percentage points while the Alberta female unemployment rate rose from 4.9% to 9.2% for a 4.3 percentage point increase. Yet, in spite of the relatively large increase in the female unemployment rate, Alberta women were in 1986, better off than women in most other provinces, with only Ontario, Manitoba and Saskachewan experiencing lower rates.

The most notable development in the position of women in the Alberta labour force, between 1976 and 1986, has been their influx into the labour force. This is particularily true for women between the ages of 25 and 44 and for married women, thus

signaling a change in the working life patterns of Alberta women. However, while women are now making up a larger portion of the total labour force, employed Alberta women are still primarily concentrated in the service sector, where many jobs are part-time, low paying and offer little opportunity for advancement. And while women have made gains in almost all occupational groups in terms of their share of total employment, they are still most often employed in non-professional, clerical and service occupations.

## WOMEN IN THE ALBERTA LABOUR FORCE

### TABLE 1 LABOUR FORCE PARTICIPATION, ALBERTA, 1976 - 1986

| | LABOUR FORCE (000's) | | | FEMALES AS A % OF LABOUR FORCE |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | BOTH SEXES | MALES | FEMALES | |
| 1976 | 873 | 545 | 328 | 37.57 |
| 1977 | 922 | 573 | 349 | 37.85 |
| 1978 | 983 | 605 | 378 | 38.45 |
| 1979 | 1048 | 642 | 406 | 38.74 |
| 1980 | 1120 | 676 | 444 | 39.64 |
| 1981 | 1198 | 718 | 480 | 40.07 |
| 1982 | 1227 | 732 | 495 | 40.34 |
| 1983 | 1249 | 737 | 513 | 41.07 |
| 1984 | 1254 | 729 | 525 | 41.87 |
| 1985 | 1249 | 721 | 528 | 42.27 |
| 1986 | 1271 | 725 | 546 | 42.96 |
| Increase over 1976 | 398 | 180 | 218 | |
| % of Total Increase | | 45.23% | 54.77% | |

Source: Labour Force Annual Averages, 1975 - 1983, Occasional, Cat. 71-529 and The Labour Force, Monthly, Cat. 71-001

## WOMEN IN THE ALBERTA LABOUR FORCE

TABLE 2 LABOUR FORCE PARTICIPATION, ALBERTA, 1976 - 1986

| | PARTICIPATION RATE (%) | | | GAP BETWEEN MALES AND FEMALES |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | BOTH SEXES | MALES | FEMALES | |
| 1976 | 67.0 | 83.0 | 50.7 | 32.3 |
| 1977 | 67.2 | 82.7 | 51.4 | 31.3 |
| 1978 | 68.4 | 83.3 | 53.2 | 30.1 |
| 1979 | 69.7 | 84.3 | 54.8 | 29.5 |
| 1980 | 70.9 | 84.3 | 57.1 | 27.2 |
| 1981 | 72.3 | 85.1 | 59.0 | 26.1 |
| 1982 | 71.4 | 83.7 | 58.7 | 25.0 |
| 1983 | 71.6 | 83.0 | 59.8 | 23.2 |
| 1984 | 72.1 | 82.7 | 61.2 | 21.5 |
| 1985 | 71.9 | 82.5 | 61.1 | 21.4 |
| 1986 | 72.1 | 82.1 | 62.1 | 20.0 |
| Percentage Point Increase Over 1976 | 5.1 | -.9 | 11.4 | |

Source: Labour Force Annual Averages, 1975 - 1983, Occasional, Cat. 71-529 and The Labour Force, Monthly, Cat. 71-001

## WOMEN IN THE ALBERTA LABOUR FORCE

### TABLE 3 FEMALE LABOUR FORCE PARTICIPATION, CANADA AND THE PROVINCES, 1976 - 1986

| | PARTICIPATION RATE (%) | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | CAN. | NFLD. | PEI. | N.S. | N.B. | QUE. | ONT. | MAN. | SASK. | ALTA. | B.C. |
| 1976 | 45.2 | 31.8 | 41.6 | 39.3 | 38.0 | 41.1 | 49.0 | 45.6 | 43.0 | 50.7 | 45.8 |
| 1977 | 46.0 | 34.1 | 42.8 | 40.1 | 38.5 | 42.2 | 49.8 | 46.7 | 44.1 | 51.4 | 46.1 |
| 1978 | 47.9 | 35.5 | 44.3 | 41.9 | 40.6 | 44.1 | 51.4 | 48.6 | 45.2 | 53.2 | 48.7 |
| 1979 | 49.0 | 35.9 | 45.9 | 42.0 | 40.8 | 44.6 | 53.2 | 49.4 | 46.6 | 54.8 | 49.0 |
| 1980 | 50.4 | 37.6 | 46.4 | 43.9 | 42.6 | 46.2 | 54.3 | 51.1 | 47.0 | 57.1 | 50.1 |
| 1981 | 51.7 | 38.2 | 46.9 | 45.0 | 43.7 | 47.4 | 55.5 | 52.2 | 48.7 | 59.0 | 52.2 |
| 1982 | 51.7 | 39.2 | 45.9 | 45.0 | 42.9 | 46.4 | 55.8 | 53.5 | 50.0 | 58.7 | 52.4 |
| 1983 | 52.6 | 39.0 | 49.5 | 46.0 | 44.2 | 47.9 | 56.4 | 54.6 | 52.5 | 59.8 | 52.4 |
| 1984 | 53.5 | 41.0 | 50.2 | 48.3 | 44.1 | 49.1 | 57.0 | 54.6 | 52.4 | 61.2 | 52.8 |
| 1985 | 54.3 | 41.8 | 51.9 | 47.8 | 46.3 | 50.0 | 57.9 | 55.7 | 54.9 | 61.1 | 53.6 |
| 1986 | 55.1 | 42.6 | 53.0 | 48.9 | 47.5 | 50.6 | 58.5 | 56.4 | 56.3 | 62.1 | 54.6 |
| Percentage Point Increase Over 1976 | 9.9 | 10.8 | 11.4 | 9.6 | 9.5 | 9.5 | 9.5 | 10.8 | 13.3 | 11.4 | 8.8 |

Source: Labour Force Annual Averages, 1975 - 1983, Occasional, Cat. 71-529 and The Labour Force, Monthly, Cat. 71-001

## WOMEN IN THE ALBERTA LABOUR FORCE

TABLE 4 FEMALE LABOUR FORCE PARTICIPATION, BY AGE, ALBERTA, 1976 - 1986

| | LABOUR FORCE (000's) | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Total | 15-24 | 25-34 | 35-44 | 45-54 | 55-64 | 65+ |
| 1976 | 328 | 115 | 78 | 57 | 49 | 26 | 4 |
| 1977 | 349 | 123 | 84 | 61 | 53 | 25 | ... |
| 1978 | 378 | 131 | 97 | 67 | 52 | 28 | ... |
| 1979 | 406 | 139 | 107 | 74 | 54 | 29 | ... |
| 1980 | 444 | 151 | 121 | 81 | 58 | 30 | ... |
| 1981 | 480 | 160 | 140 | 84 | 61 | 31 | 4 |
| 1982 | 495 | 156 | 149 | 95 | 60 | 32 | 4 |
| 1983 | 513 | 148 | 155 | 102 | 67 | 35 | 5 |
| 1984 | 525 | 141 | 164 | 110 | 70 | 36 | 4 |
| 1985 | 528 | 135 | 170 | 115 | 69 | 35 | 4 |
| 1986 | 546 | 134 | 175 | 126 | 72 | 35 | 5 |
| Increase Over 1976 | 218 | 19 | 97 | 69 | 23 | 9 | 1 |
| % of Total Increase | 100 | 8.72 | 44.50 | 31.65 | 10.55 | 4.13 | .46 |

Source: Labour Force Annual Averages, 1975 - 1983, Occasional, Cat. 71-529 and The Labour Force, Monthly, Cat. 71-001

## WOMEN IN THE ALBERTA LABOUR FORCE

### TABLE 5 FEMALE LABOUR FORCE PARTICIPATION, BY AGE, ALBERTA 1976 - 1986

| | PARTICIPATION RATES (%) | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Total | 15-24 | 25-34 | 35-44 | 45-54 | 55-64 | 65+ |
| 1976 | 50.7 | 62.4 | 54.5 | 57.1 | 55.0 | 38.0 | 5.9 |
| 1977 | 51.4 | 63.0 | 54.7 | 59.3 | 58.2 | 35.6 | ... |
| 1978 | 53.2 | 63.8 | 59.2 | 62.2 | 57.1 | 38.0 | ... |
| 1979 | 54.8 | 65.0 | 60.8 | 66.1 | 58.3 | 39.1 | ... |
| 1980 | 57.1 | 68.1 | 63.5 | 68.5 | 60.8 | 38.9 | ... |
| 1981 | 59.0 | 70.0 | 67.9 | 67.4 | 63.1 | 39.5 | 4.5 |
| 1982 | 58.7 | 68.2 | 68.0 | 70.4 | 60.9 | 39.1 | 4.5 |
| 1983 | 59.8 | 66.8 | 68.8 | 71.9 | 67.2 | 42.2 | 5.5 |
| 1984 | 61.2 | 67.0 | 72.4 | 74.6 | 69.4 | 41.9 | 4.3 |
| 1985 | 61.1 | 67.2 | 73.7 | 74.3 | 68.0 | 40.9 | 4.6 |
| 1986 | 62.1 | 68.5 | 74.2 | 78.0 | 68.7 | 39.9 | 5.0 |
| Percentage Point Increase Over 1976 | 11.4 | 6.1 | 19.7 | 20.9 | 13.7 | 1.9 | -.9 |

Source: Labour Force Annual Averages, 1975 - 1983, Occasional, Cat. 71-529 and The Labour Force, Monthly, Cat. 71-001

## WOMEN IN THE ALBERTA LABOUR FORCE

TABLE 6 FEMALE LABOUR FORCE PARTICIPATION, BY MARITAL STATUS, ALBERTA, 1976 - 1986

| | LABOUR FORCE (000's) | | PARTICIPATION RATE (%) | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | MARRIED | SINGLE/OTHER | MARRIED | SINGLE/OTHER |
| 1976 | 200 | 128 | 47.5 | 56.7 |
| 1977 | 222 | 127 | 48.8 | 56.5 |
| 1978 | 230 | 148 | 50.1 | 59.0 |
| 1979 | 243 | 163 | 51.5 | 60.5 |
| 1980 | 265 | 178 | 53.6 | 63.1 |
| 1981 | 281 | 199 | 55.6 | 64.5 |
| 1982 | 301 | 194 | 56.3 | 62.8 |
| 1983 | 318 | 195 | 59.0 | 61.1 |
| 1984 | 319 | 206 | 60.5 | 62.2 |
| 1985 | 333 | 195 | 60.9 | 61.4 |
| 1986 | 346 | 200 | 62.4 | 61.6 |
| Increase Over 1976 | 146 | 72 | 14.9 | 4.9 |

Source: Labour Force Annual Averages, 1975 - 1983, Occasional, Cat. 71-529 and The Labour Force, Monthly, Cat. 71-001

## WOMEN IN THE ALBERTA LABOUR FORCE

TABLE 7 EMPLOYMENT, ALBERTA, 1976 - 1986

| | EMPLOYMENT (000's) | | | FEMALES AS A % OF |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | BOTH SEXES | MALES | FEMALES | EMPLOYED LABOUR FORCE |
| 1976 | 838 | 526 | 312 | 37.23 |
| 1977 | 880 | 550 | 331 | 37.61 |
| 1978 | 937 | 581 | 356 | 37.99 |
| 1979 | 1007 | 621 | 386 | 38.33 |
| 1980 | 1078 | 654 | 424 | 39.33 |
| 1981 | 1152 | 693 | 459 | 39.84 |
| 1982 | 1132 | 673 | 459 | 40.55 |
| 1983 | 1115 | 653 | 462 | 41.42 |
| 1984 | 1114 | 645 | 469 | 42.10 |
| 1985 | 1123 | 649 | 474 | 42.21 |
| 1986 | 1146 | 650 | 496 | 43.28 |
| Increase Over 1976 | 308 | 124 | 184 | |
| % of Total Increase | | 40.26 | 59.74 | |

Source: Labour Force Annual Averages, 1975 - 1983, Occasional, Cat. 71-529 and The Labour Force, Monthly, Cat. 71-001

## WOMEN IN THE ALBERTA LABOUR FORCE

TABLE 8 EMPLOYMENT, ALBERTA, 1976 - 1986

| | EMPLOYMENT/POPULATION RATIO (%) | | | GAP BETWEEN MALES AND FEMALES |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | BOTH SEXES | MALES | FEMALES | |
| 1976 | 64.3 | 80.1 | 48.2 | 31.9 |
| 1977 | 64.1 | 79.4 | 48.6 | 30.8 |
| 1978 | 65.2 | 79.9 | 50.1 | 29.8 |
| 1979 | 67.0 | 81.5 | 52.1 | 29.4 |
| 1980 | 68.3 | 81.5 | 54.6 | 26.9 |
| 1981 | 69.5 | 82.1 | 56.4 | 25.7 |
| 1982 | 65.9 | 76.9 | 54.4 | 22.5 |
| 1983 | 63.9 | 73.5 | 53.9 | 19.6 |
| 1984 | 64.0 | 73.1 | 54.7 | 18.4 |
| 1985 | 64.7 | 74.3 | 54.9 | 19.4 |
| 1986 | 65.0 | 73.6 | 56.4 | 17.2 |
| Percentage Point Increase Over 1976 | .7 | -6.5 | 8.2 | |

## WOMEN IN THE ALBERTA LABOUR FORCE

TABLE 9 FEMALE EMPLOYMENT, CANADA AND THE PROVINCES, 1976 - 1986

| | EMPLOYMENT/POPULATION RATIO | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | CAN. | NFLD. | PEI. | N.S. | N.B. | QUE. | ONT. | MAN. | SASK. | ALTA. | B.C. |
| 1976 | 41.4 | 27.5 | 37.0 | 35.3 | 33.5 | 37.1 | 45.2 | 43.3 | 40.7 | 48.2 | 41.0 |
| 1977 | 41.7 | 28.9 | 37.6 | 35.4 | 32.8 | 37.3 | 45.5 | 43.5 | 41.7 | 48.6 | 41.3 |
| 1978 | 43.3 | 29.6 | 38.9 | 37.2 | 35.1 | 38.8 | 46.9 | 45.0 | 42.5 | 50.1 | 44.0 |
| 1979 | 44.7 | 30.1 | 39.8 | 37.1 | 35.7 | 39.7 | 49.1 | 46.2 | 44.1 | 52.1 | 44.5 |
| 1980 | 46.2 | 32.5 | 40.8 | 39.3 | 37.6 | 41.2 | 50.1 | 48.0 | 44.3 | 54.6 | 45.9 |
| 1981 | 47.4 | 32.9 | 41.0 | 40.0 | 38.5 | 42.0 | 51.4 | 48.8 | 45.9 | 56.4 | 48.2 |
| 1982 | 46.1 | 33.0 | 40.0 | 39.0 | 37.0 | 39.9 | 50.4 | 49.1 | 46.8 | 54.4 | 46.2 |
| 1983 | 46.5 | 32.0 | 43.2 | 40.0 | 38.1 | 41.2 | 50.5 | 49.7 | 48.4 | 53.9 | 45.7 |
| 1984 | 47.3 | 32.9 | 43.5 | 41.9 | 37.8 | 42.6 | 51.5 | 49.7 | 47.9 | 54.7 | 45.5 |
| 1985 | 48.5 | 33.0 | 44.9 | 41.1 | 39.7 | 44.0 | 52.9 | 50.9 | 50.3 | 54.9 | 46.1 |
| 1986 | 49.7 | 33.8 | 45.6 | 42.0 | 41.1 | 44.8 | 54.2 | 52.1 | 52.0 | 56.4 | 47.5 |
| Percentage Point Increase Over 1976 | 8.3 | 6.3 | 8.6 | 6.7 | 7.6 | 7.7 | 9.0 | 8.8 | 11.3 | 8.2 | 6.5 |

Source: Labour Force Annual Averages, 1975 - 1983, Occasional, Cat. 71-529 and The Labour Force, Monthly, Cat. 71-001

## WOMEN IN THE ALBERTA LABOUR FORCE

TABLE 10 EMPLOYMENT, BY INDUSTRY, ALBERTA, 1976 - 1986 (alternate years)

| | EMPLOYMENT (000's) | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 1976 | 1978 | 1980 | 1982 | 1984 | 1986 | Increase Over 1976 |
| Total | 838 | 937 | 1078 | 1132 | 1114 | 1146 | 308 |
| Goods Producing Industries | | | | | | | |
| Agriculture | 116 | 85 | 85 | 77 | 88 | 87 | -29 |
| Other Primary Industries | 32 | 53 | 66 | 69 | 74 | 70 | 38 |
| Manufacturing | 76 | 79 | 102 | 95 | 88 | 89 | 13 |
| Construction | 77 | 95 | 104 | 112 | 71 | 67 | -10 |
| Subtotal | 301 or 35.92% | 312 | 357 | 353 | 321 | 313 or 27.31% | 12 |
| Service Industries | | | | | | | |
| Transportation, Communication and other Utilities | 70 | 85 | 97 | 95 | 95 | 93 | 23 |
| Trade | 151 | 168 | 195 | 200 | 196 | 214 | 63 |
| Finance, Insurance and Real Estate | 38 | 48 | 59 | 68 | 58 | 58 | 20 |
| Community, Business and Personal Service | 220 | 262 | 301 | 332 | 358 | 383 | 163 |
| Public Administration | 58 | 61 | 70 | 84 | 85 | 85 | 27 |
| Subtotal | 537 or 64.08% | 624 | 722 | 779 | 792 | 833 or 72.69% | 296 |

Source: Labour Force Annual Averages, 1975 - 1983, Occasional, Cat. 71-529 and The Labour Force, Monthly, Cat. 71-001

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TABLE 11 FEMALE EMPLOYMENT, BY INDUSTRY, ALBERTA, 1976 - 1986 (alternate years)

| | EMPLOYMENT (000's) | | | | | | Increase |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 1976 | 1978 | 1980 | 1982 | 1984 | 1986 | Over 1976 |
| Total | 312 | 356 | 424 | 459 | 469 | 496 | 184 |
| Goods Producing Industries | | | | | | | |
| Agriculture | 30 | 22 | 22 | 22 | 25 | 26 | -4 |
| Other Primary Industries | 5 | 9 | 13 | 14 | 17 | 15 | 10 |
| Manufacturing | 17 | 17 | 24 | 24 | 20 | 22 | 5 |
| Construction | 6 | 8 | 10 | 11 | 7 | 7 | 1 |
| Subtotal | 58 | 56 | 69 | 71 | 69 | 70 | 12 |
| Service Industries | | | | | | | |
| Transportation, Communication and other Ulilities | 16 | 19 | 21 | 24 | 25 | 24 | 8 |
| Trade | 64 | 69 | 86 | 90 | 84 | 93 | 29 |
| Finance, Insurance and Real Estate | 22 | 29 | 36 | 41 | 35 | 36 | 14 |
| Community, Business and Personal Service | 133 | 161 | 185 | 198 | 221 | 237 | 104 |
| Public Administration | 19 | 22 | 27 | 35 | 36 | 36 | 17 |
| Subtotal | 254 | 300 | 355 | 388 | 401 | 426 | 172 |

Source: Labour Force Annual AVerages, 1975 - 1983, Occasional, Cat. 71-529 and The Labour Force, Monthly, Cat. 71-001

WOMEN IN THE ALBERTA LABOUR FORCE

TABLE 12 FEMALE EMPLOYMENT AS A % OF TOTAL EMPLOYMENT, BY INDUSTRY, ALBERTA, 1976 - 1986

| | FEMALE EMPLOYMENT AS A % OF TOTAL EMPLOYMENT | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 1976 | 1978 | 1980 | 1982 | 1984 | 1986 |
| Goods Producing Industries | | | | | | |
| Agriculture | 25.86 | 25.88 | 25.88 | 28.57 | 28.41 | 29.89 |
| Other Primary Industries | 15.63 | 16.98 | 19.70 | 20.29 | 22.97 | 21.43 |
| Manufacturing | 22.37 | 21.52 | 23.53 | 25.26 | 22.73 | 24.72 |
| Construction | 7.79 | 8.52 | 9.62 | 9.82 | 9.86 | 10.45 |
| Subtotal | 19.27 | 17.95 | 19.33 | 20.11 | 21.50 | 22.36 |
| Service Industries | | | | | | |
| Transportation, Communication and other Utilities | 22.86 | 22.35 | 21.65 | 25.26 | 26.32 | 25.81 |
| Trade | 42.38 | 41.07 | 44.10 | 45.00 | 42.86 | 43.46 |
| Finance, Insurance and Real Estate | 57.89 | 60.42 | 61.02 | 60.29 | 60.34 | 62.07 |
| Community, Business and Personal Service | 60.45 | 61.45 | 61.46 | 59.64 | 61.73 | 61.88 |
| Public Administration | 32.76 | 36.07 | 38.57 | 41.67 | 42.35 | 42.35 |
| Subtotal | 47.30 | 48.08 | 49.17 | 49.81 | 50.63 | 51.04 |
| Total | 37.23 | 37.99 | 39.33 | 40.55 | 42.10 | 43.28 |

Source: Calculated using table 10 and 11

TABLE 13 FEMALE EMPLOYMENT DISTRIBUTION BY INDUSTRY, ALBERTA 1976 - 1986 (alternate years)

| | EMPLOYMENT DISTRIBUTION BY INDUSTRY | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 1976 | 1978 | 1980 | 1982 | 1984 | 1986 |
| Goods Producing Industries | | | | | | |
| Agriculture | 9.62 | 6.18 | 5.19 | 4.79 | 5.33 | 5.24 |
| Other Primary Industries | 1.60 | 2.53 | 3.07 | 3.05 | 3.62 | 3.02 |
| Manufacturing | 5.45 | 4.78 | 5.66 | 5.23 | 4.26 | 4.44 |
| Construction | 1.92 | 2.25 | 2.36 | 2.40 | 1.49 | 1.41 |
| Subtotal | 18.59* | 15.73 | 16.27 | 15.47 | 14.71 | 14.11 |
| Service Industries | | | | | | |
| Transportation, Communication and other Ulilities | 5.13 | 5.34 | 4.95 | 5.23 | 5.33 | 4.84 |
| Trade | 20.51 | 19.38 | 20.28 | 19.61 | 17.91 | 18.75 |
| Finance, Insurance and Real Estate | 7.05 | 8.15 | 8.49 | 8.93 | 7.46 | 7.26 |
| Community, Business and Personal Service | 42.63 | 45.22 | 43.63 | 43.14 | 47.12 | 47.78 |
| Public Administration | 6.09 | 6.18 | 6.37 | 7.63 | 7.68 | 7.26 |
| Subtotal | 81.41* | 81.27 | 83.73 | 84.53 | 85.50 | 85.89 |
| Total | 100.00* | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 |

*Individual industries may not add to subtotals, or subtotals to totals, due to rounding

Source: Calculated using table 11

## WOMEN IN THE ALBERTA LABOUR FORCE

TABLE 14 EMPLOYMENT, BY OCCUPATION, ALBERTA, 1976 - 1986 (alternate years)

| | EMPLOYMENT (000's) | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 1976 | 1978 | 1980 | 1982 | 1984 | 1986 |
| Total | 838 | 937 | 1078 | 1132 | 1114 | 1146 |
| Managerial | 178 | 219 | 240 | 283 | 319 | 350 |
| Clercial | 135 | 148 | 184 | 197 | 188 | 183 |
| Sales | 90 | 99 | 114 | 121 | 102 | 110 |
| Service | 95 | 109 | 129 | 147 | 149 | 154 |
| Primary Occupations | 127 | 106 | 110 | 99 | 114 | 104 |
| Processing | 76 | 91 | 111 | 104 | 98 | 100 |
| Construction | 73 | 90 | 95 | 97 | 69 | 67 |
| Transportation | 36 | 44 | 57 | 47 | 44 | 46 |
| Materials Handling | 28 | 31 | 38 | 36 | 31 | 32 |

Source: Labour Force Annual Averages, 1975 - 1983, Occasional, Cat. 71-529 and The Labour Force, Monthly, CAt. 71-001

## WOMEN IN THE ALBERTA FORCE

TABLE 15 FEMALE EMPLOYMENT, BY OCCUPATION, ALBERTA, 1976 - 1986 (alternate years)

| | EMPLOYMENT (000's) | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 1976 | 1978 | 1980 | 1982 | 1984 | 1986 |
| Total | 312 | 356 | 424 | 459 | 469 | 496 |
| Managerial | 72 | 89 | 98 | 119 | 138 | 156 |
| Clerical | 108 | 123 | 154 | 166 | 157 | 155 |
| Sales | 34 | 39 | 48 | 50 | 42 | 50 |
| Service | 54 | 65 | 77 | 83 | 87 | 88 |
| Primary Occupations | 29 | 22 | 21 | 20 | 24 | 23 |
| Processing | 8 | 9 | 13 | 10 | 11 | 11 |
| Construction | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Transportation | ... | ... | 5 | 4 | 4 | ... |
| Materials Handling | 4 | 4 | 6 | 6 | 5 | 7 |

Source: Labour Force Annual Averages, 1975 - 1983, Occasional, Cat. 71-529 and The Labour Force, Monthly, Cat. 71-001

WOMEN IN THE ALBERTA LABOUR FORCE

TABLE 16 FEMALE EMPLOYMENT AS A % OF TOTAL EMPLOYMENT, BY OCCUPATION, ALBERTA, 1976 - 1986

| | FEMALE EMPLOYMENT AS A % OF TOTAL EMPLOYMENT | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 1976 | 1978 | 1980 | 1982 | 1984 | 1986 |
| Managerial | 40.45 | 40.64 | 40.83 | 41.75 | 43.26 | 44.57 |
| Clerical | 80.00 | 83.12 | 83.70 | 84.26 | 83.51 | 84.70 |
| Sales | 37.78 | 39.39 | 42.11 | 41.32 | 41.18 | 45.45 |
| Service | 56.84 | 59.63 | 59.69 | 56.46 | 58.39 | 57.14 |
| Primary Occupations | 22.83 | 20.75 | 19.09 | 20.20 | 21.05 | 22.12 |
| Processing | 10.53 | 9.89 | 11.71 | 9.62 | 11.22 | 11.00 |
| Construction | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Transportation | ... | ... | 8.77 | 8.51 | 9.09 | ... |
| Materials Handling | 14.29 | 12.90 | 15.79 | 16.67 | 16.13 | 21.88 |
| Total | 37.23 | 37.99 | 39.33 | 40.55 | 42.10 | 43.28 |

Source: Calculated using tables 14 and 15

TABLE 17 FEMALE EMPLOYMENT DISTRIBUTION BY OCCUPATION, ALBERTA, 1976 - 1986 (alternate years)

| | EMPLOYMENT DISTRIBUTION BY OCCUPATION | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 1976 | 1978 | 1980 | 1982 | 1984 | 1986 |
| Managerial | 23.08 | 25.00 | 23.11 | 25.93 | 29.42 | 31.45 |
| Clerical | 34.62 | 34.55 | 36.32 | 36.17 | 33.48 | 31.25 |
| Sales | 10.90 | 10.96 | 11.32 | 10.89 | 8.96 | 10.08 |
| Service | 17.31 | 18.26 | 18.16 | 18.08 | 18.55 | 17.74 |
| Primary Occupations | 9.29 | 6.18 | 4.95 | 4.37 | 5.12 | 4.64 |
| Processing | 2.56 | 2.53 | 3.07 | 2.18 | 2.35 | 2.22 |
| Construction | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Transportation | ... | ... | 1.18 | .87 | .85 | ... |
| Materials Handling | 1.28 | 1.12 | 1.42 | .87 | 1.07 | 1.41 |

Source: Calculated using table 15

## WOMEN IN THE ALBERTA LABOUR FORCE

### TABLE 18 FULL-TIME AND PART-TIME EMPLOYMENT, ALBERTA, 1976 - 1986

| | MALES | | | FEMALES | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | FULL-TIME | PART-TIME | PART-TIME AS % OF TOTAL | FULL-TIME | PART-TIME | PART-TIME AS % OF TOTAL |
| 1976 | 495 | 31 | 5.89 | 233 | 79 | 25.32 |
| 1977 | 517 | 32 | 5.83 | 249 | 82 | 24.77 |
| 1978 | 549 | 32 | 5.51 | 262 | 94 | 26.40 |
| 1979 | 588 | 33 | 5.31 | 294 | 92 | 23.83 |
| 1980 | 620 | 33 | 5.05 | 322 | 102 | 24.06 |
| 1981 | 657 | 36 | 5.19 | 351 | 108 | 23.53 |
| 1982 | 635 | 38 | 5.65 | 349 | 110 | 23.97 |
| 1983 | 607 | 46 | 7.04 | 344 | 119 | 25.70 |
| 1984 | 597 | 47 | 7.30 | 349 | 121 | 25.74 |
| 1985 | 601 | 48 | 7.40 | 347 | 127 | 26.79 |
| 1986 | 602 | 48 | 7.38 | 368 | 127 | 25.66 |

Source: Labour Force Annual Averages, 1975 - 1983, Occasional, Cat. 71-529 and The Labour Force, Monthly, Cat. 71-001

## WOMEN IN THE ALBERTA LABOUR FORCE

TABLE 19 UNEMPLOYMENT, ALBERTA, 1976 - 1986

| | UNEMPLOYMENT (000's) | | | UNEMPLOYMENT RATE (%) | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | TOTAL | MALE | FEMALE | TOTAL | MALE | FEMALE |
| 1976 | 35 | 19 | 16 | 4.0 | 3.4 | 4.9 |
| 1977 | 41 | 23 | 18 | 4.5 | 4.0 | 5.3 |
| 1978 | 46 | 24 | 22 | 4.7 | 4.0 | 5.8 |
| 1979 | 41 | 21 | 20 | 3.9 | 3.3 | 4.9 |
| 1980 | 42 | 23 | 19 | 3.7 | 3.3 | 4.4 |
| 1981 | 46 | 25 | 21 | 3.8 | 3.5 | 4.3 |
| 1982 | 95 | 59 | 36 | 7.7 | 8.0 | 7.3 |
| 1983 | 134 | 84 | 51 | 10.8 | 11.4 | 9.9 |
| 1984 | 140 | 85 | 56 | 11.2 | 11.6 | 10.6 |
| 1985 | 126 | 72 | 54 | 10.1 | 10.0 | 10.2 |
| 1986 | 125 | 75 | 50 | 9.8 | 10.3 | 9.2 |

Source: Labour Force Annual Averages, 1975 - 1983, Occasional, Cat. 71-529 and The Labour Force, Monthly, Cat. 71-001

## WOMEN IN THE ALBERTA LABOUR FORCE

TABLE 20 FEMALE UNEMPLOYMENT, CANADA AND THE PROVINCES, 1976 - 1986

| | UENMPLOYMENT RATE (%) | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | CAN. | NFLD. | PEI. | N.S. | N.B. | QUE. | ONT. | MAN. | SASK. | ALTA. | B.C. |
| 1976 | 8.4 | 13.5 | ... | 10.2 | 12.0 | 9.7 | 7.8 | 5.0 | 5.4 | 4.9 | 10.5 |
| 1977 | 9.4 | 15.2 | ... | 11.5 | 14.7 | 11.5 | 8.6 | 6.7 | 5.6 | 5.3 | 10.5 |
| 1978 | 9.6 | 16.6 | ... | 11.2 | 13.7 | 12.1 | 8.8 | 7.4 | 6.1 | 5.8 | 9.7 |
| 1979 | 8.8 | 16.0 | ... | 11.7 | 12.5 | 11.1 | 7.8 | 6.3 | 5.4 | 4.9 | 9.3 |
| 1980 | 8.4 | 13.5 | ... | 10.4 | 11.8 | 10.8 | 7.7 | 6.1 | 5.6 | 4.4 | 8.5 |
| 1981 | 8.3 | 14.0 | ... | 11.1 | 11.9 | 11.3 | 7.4 | 6.5 | 5.7 | 4.3 | 7.7 |
| 1982 | 10.9 | 15.9 | ... | 13.3 | 13.8 | 13.9 | 9.8 | 8.2 | 6.4 | 7.3 | 11.7 |
| 1983 | 11.6 | 18.0 | ... | 13.0 | 13.8 | 14.0 | 10.3 | 9.0 | 7.7 | 9.9 | 12.9 |
| 1984 | 11.4 | 19.9 | ... | 13.3 | 14.3 | 13.3 | 9.6 | 8.9 | 8.5 | 10.6 | 13.8 |
| 1985 | 10.7 | 21.2 | ... | 14.1 | 14.2 | 12.1 | 8.6 | 8.5 | 8.5 | 10.2 | 14.1 |
| 1986 | 9.9 | 20.7 | 13.9 | 14.0 | 13.6 | 11.6 | 7.5 | 7.7 | 7.6 | 9.2 | 12.9 |
| Percentage Point Increase Over 1976 | 1.5 | 7.2 | | 3.8 | 1.6 | 1.9 | -.3 | 2.7 | 2.2 | 4.3 | 2.4 |

Source: Labour Force Annual Averages, 1975 - 1983, Occasional, Cat. 71-529 and The Labour Force, Monthly, Cat. 71-001

# WOMEN IN THE ALBERTA LABOUR FORCE

## DEFINITIONS

### LABOUR FORCE

The labour force is composed of that portion of the civilian non-institutional population fifteen years of age and over who, during the reference week were employed or unemployed.

### PARTICIPATION RATE

The participation rate represents the labour force as a percentage of the population fifteen years of age and over. The participation rate for a particular group (such as women) is the labour force in that group expressed as a percentage of the population for that group.

### EMPLOYED

The employed labour force includes all persons who during the reference week:

(1) Did any work at all

(2) Had a job but were not at work due to;

- own illness or disability
- personal or family responsibilities
- bad weather
- labour dispute
- vacation
- other reason not specified above

### EMPLOYMENT/POPULATION RATIO

The employment/population ratio represents the number of persons employed expressed as a percentage of the population 15 years of age and over. The employment/population raio for particular group (such as women) is the number of employed in that group expressed as a percentage of the population for that group.

### UNEMPLOYMENT

The unemployed includes those persons who during the reference week were without work but were available for work and (1) had actively looked for work, (2) had been on layoff or (3) had a new job to start in four weeks.

**DEFINITIONS CONTINUED**

**UNEMPLOYMENT RATE**

The unemployment rate represents the number of unemployed persons as a percent of the labour force. The unemployment rate for a particular group (such as women) is the unemployed in that group expressed as a percentage of the labour force for that group.